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(By Public Information Office)

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Highlights

UN/ Agencies

Ban Ki-moon to visit Sudan next month

(*AlAyaam*) President Bashir received a call last evening from the Secretary-General of the UN in which Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon expressed appreciation for Sudan's positive position and its acceptance for the deployment of a hybrid force within the framework of efforts to restore security and stability in the region.

The UN Secretary-General said he intends to visit the Sudan from 3 to 6 September to assess the situation on the ground.

Ki-moon expressed hopes that the ongoing meetings in Arusha will contribute to the unification of views of the non-signatory groups in a bid to reach a final negotiated settlement of the conflict.

On his part, President Bashir thanked the Secretary-General for the call and said Sudan welcomed the proposed visit that he believes will have a major effect in bolstering government's efforts to realise peace in Darfur.

UN chief calls coming months "crucial" for Darfur peace

(*AP*) Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Friday called the coming weeks and months crucial in the quest for peace in Darfur with new momentum on the political front and approval of a joint African Union-U.N. peacekeeping force to help stem the violence.

But in a report to the U.N. Security Council, Ban warned that "as long as hostilities continue in Darfur, efforts to reach a political settlement and achieve durable peace will not succeed."

The report was released ahead of a three-day meeting this weekend in Arusha, Tanzania, organized by the U.N. and AU to get Darfur's various splinter rebel factions to agree on an agenda for future peace talks and help improve their negotiating skills.

It also follows Tuesday's unanimous approval by the U.N. Security Council of a 26,000-strong AU-U.N. peacekeeping force for Darfur to help end four years of rape and slaughter of civilians in the vast Sudanese region.

"The coming weeks and months will be a crucial period in the quest for peace in Darfur," Ban said.

The joint effort by the U.N. and the African Union to achieve a political solution "will gain momentum" as special envoys from the two organizations "make every effort to commence negotiations" between all combatants and the government, he said.

At the same time, the secretary-general said, implementing the Security Council resolution on the AU-U.N. "hybrid" force will be "a major litmus test of the political will of all involved."

Ban said the successful deployment of the hybrid force "will very much depend on the government's cooperation and assistance, especially with regard to the provision of adequate land, permission to drill for water and the timely clearance of critical mission-support items through customs."

The international community in the next month must also offer the troops and police for the hybrid operation so that the AU-U.N. force can take over as quickly as possible from the underfunded and poorly equipped 7,000-strong AU force currently on the ground in Darfur, which has been unable to stem the violence, he said.

Meanwhile, Ban said he was very concerned at the "very precarious" situation in Darfur where violence and insecurity continues, including bombings by the Sudanese military of civilian areas, ground attacks against civilian villages, a resurgence of inter-tribal clashes, and the systematic rape of women and girls.

Since the beginning of the year, he said, more than 150,000 people have fled their villages, most seeking refuge in camps for internally displaced people that in many cases are already overcrowded.

Ban said the continuing insecurity has forced humanitarian organizations to curtail some programs, leading to "the deterioration of the living conditions of the millions of conflict-affected people who depend on humanitarian agencies for their survival."

"It is estimated that 566,000 of the 4.2 million conflict-affected persons in Darfur are currently cut off from humanitarian assistance," he said.

Ban also expressed concern at the upsurge in attacks targeting African Union and U.N. peacekeepers as well as the humanitarian community.

Looking ahead at the upcoming "critical phase," the secretary-general said international efforts must continue "in earnest" on the political, peacekeeping, humanitarian and development tracks.

"There must be substantial progress towards a political settlement and concrete action to strengthen peacekeeping through the hybrid operation," Ban said.

"We must also ensure that the massive humanitarian assistance program continues to sustain millions of people in Darfur he said. "Finally, recovery, development and rehabilitation strategies must be put in place to ensure that these critical longer-term considerations are addressed."

UN Darfur force 'will be too weak'

(www.Telegraph.co.uk) United Nations officials in Sudan fear that the hasty plan to send a 26,000-strong peacekeeping force to Darfur, approved by the Security Council last week, will backfire because its mandate is too weak.

Senior aid workers and UN staff on the ground are strongly critical of the deal, hurriedly struck in New York with the backing of Britain, France and the US, immediately after Gordon Brown's first visit as Prime Minister to the organization's headquarters.

The force is unlikely to be deployed until next year, but the critics claim the decision is already undermining political progress within Sudan. One UN official near Al Fasher, the capital city of north Darfur, said: "It has come as a real blow to the international community here and has seriously damaged what little political progress was being made.

"Brown, Bush and Sarkozy have been pushing the issue of Darfur without any real success, but now they have a resolution to hold up as a trophy."

Critics say that rebel groups, whose presence at peace talks will be needed, will not lay down their arms without tougher international protection for their people.

Ahmed Aboud, a commander of the rebel Sudanese Liberation Army, said its leader would not attend talks in Tanzania this weekend "and this resolution is one of the reasons. The government is killing our people and this resolution will do nothing to stop it. We must keep fighting for ourselves."

Meanwhile, former United Nations envoy for Sudan Jan Pronk is concerned about the effectiveness of a U.N. force for Darfur as the government in Khartoum has obstructed previous U.N. resolutions, Dutch media reported on Saturday.

"It will take a very long time before that mission is fully operational," said Pronk in an interview with Dutch daily Trouw.

Pronk, who headed the U.N.'s Sudan mission for nearly two years before he was expelled from the country last October for criticizing its government, said the Sudanese cabinet had a history of obstructing U.N. missions.

"(The government) has not executed any of the U.N. Security Council's resolutions. Everything, they have flouted everything," the paper quoted Pronk as saying. [[Read more ...](#)].

Coverage on the press conference hosting Special Rapporteur Sima Samar

(*AFP, the local press during the weekend*) United Nations Special Rapporteur for the Situation of Human Rights in Sudan said on Thursday she had not seen any improvement since her last visit and complained of a lack of transparency by the Khartoum authorities.

Sima Samar told a news conference at the end of her fourth visit to the country that she had raised a number of issues with officials, including arrests of journalists and opposition politicians.

Among the cases were those of senior officials from the two main opposition parties, Mubarak al-Fadil al-Mahdi of the Umma party and Democratic Unionist Party deputy chief Ali Mahmud Hassanain, who was arrested this week.

Samar stressed "transparency should be observed in those cases," and that she was "worried about the detention of the opponents under the freedom-binding laws" which she said the government "has done little to amend."

"Freedom of expression, political rights, freedom of associations are not being fully respected", Samar said.

Samar also lamented the fact that a human rights commission has not been established in the north, as provided for in the peace agreement with southern Sudan, while such a body has been set up in the south.

The Rapporteur visited Juba in south Sudan and Al-Fasher, capital of North Darfur. Since her last mission to the war-torn Darfur region, "officials have now acknowledged that there is a problem" there, she said.

Most of the Friday and some of the Saturday local dailies gave factual coverage on the press briefing. Transcripts of this briefing can be accessed through the website: www.unmis.org

UNICEF: Children Health Status Alarming in Darfur

(Sudan Vision) In the joint press conference held yesterday at the Federal Ministry of Health, the UNICEF Representative to Sudan, Ted Chaiban revealed that the health situation of the children in Darfur was disturbing as infant mortality rate, caused by mal- nutrition diseases, has been on the rise. He added that rains and floods have inflated the situation.

He stated that UNICEF which succeeded in scaling down infant mortality rate during the last two years was intending to conduct an overall survey in coordination with the Federal Ministry of Health and WHO to probe the causes of the phenomenon.

Chaiban affirmed UNICEF commitment to fund the polio control campaigns scheduled to start on August 6th across the Northern States. He was quoted to have said that the Campaign budget was estimated to cost \$3 million.

The Representative informed the press that his Organization had sought the Opposed Movements consent to allow the vaccination teams operate in the regions under their control during the Campaign period.

On her part, the Minister of Federal Health, Dr. Tabitha Butrus affirmed Sudan's commitment to the International Initiative focusing Polio eradication. She added that, following the progressive stage achieved by Sudan in that respect, the projected Campaign focuses the containment of the virus.

The Anti-Polio Broadened Vaccination Program Director, Dr. Ahmed Alsayed explained that the said Campaign coincides with a similar one in the neighbouring Chad where some Polio cases were reported recently.

Dr. Alsayed noted that his Department is planning to vaccinate the children accompanying their parents during the coming Haj season.

GoNU (CPA; Darfur Peace Agreement; ESPA)

Sudan FVP urges refrain from media war between peace partners

(*SudanTribune.com*) In a statement reported by the official SUNA, First Vice-President and President of the GoSS Salva Kiir said it's necessary to refrain from media war between the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) and the National Congress Party (NCP), in order to avoid any attempt of the enemies of peace to split the two parties.

In a meeting held in Juba with a delegation from the NCP led by Nafi Ali Nafi, the presidential assistant and deputy chairman of the NCP for political and organization affairs, Salva Kiir asserted the capability of the two parties to surpass the pending files through the joint mechanisms. [[Read more ...](#)].

Naivasha mediator welcomes Moi's appointment as Kenya's peace envoy to Sudan

(*SudanTribune.com*) The Chief Mediator of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, retired Kenyan General Lazarus Sumbeiywo hailed the appointment of former Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi as Kenya's Peace Envoy to Sudan will "boost" implementation of the CPA.

Addressing a Sudanese Advocacy Group last Sunday at a Nairobi hotel, General Sumbeiywo said Moi can help push for full implementation of the CPA because Moi was instrumental in steering the peace talks and pressuring the then-Government of Sudan to sign the agreement.

General Sumbeiywo said Moi's is also very knowledgeable about Africa in general and regional conflicts in particular.

However, the retired general says the implementation of the agreement faces challenges from some elements in the National Congress Party — who he says — are opposed to the CPA.

Moi was appointed as Peace Envoy last week by Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki, following a discussion between Kibaki and Sudan's President Omar al-Bashir.

Moi has welcomed the appointment saying his new role will give him an opportunity to get actively involved in the implementation of the CPA.

The appointment of Moi comes at a time when the CPA is under constant threats from the National Congress Party (NCP), a partner with the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) in the government of National Unity.

In a report, A Strategy for Comprehensive Peace in Sudan released in Brussels last week the International Crisis Group warned "the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), which ended Africa's longest-running civil war in 2005, is being extensively undermined, primarily by the ruling National Congress Party (NCP)". [[Read more ...](#)].

NCP accuses SPLM of forcing humanitarian organizations out from Southern Sudan

(Alltibaba) The National Congress Party has accused the SPLM of imposing administrative and security pressures on humanitarian agencies operating in Southern Sudan.

Qutbi el-Mahdi who heads the NCP directorate for organizations' affairs says that humanitarian agencies operating in Southern Sudan have been forced out of the region in the last two years due to such pressures and those that remain are "badly off" but have opted to remain there to carry out their humanitarian duties.

White Nile lobbying removal from Sudan oil block

(Reuters - Juba) Britain's White Nile Plc is lobbying against a decision to remove them from south Sudan's oil Block B, saying it had halted all drilling work in the swampy area.

South Sudan's industry minister, Albino Akol Akol, told Reuters in July a long-standing dispute over the massive Block B had been resolved in favor of French oil giant Total SA which held rights to the block granted by the northern government.

"We have stopped drilling operations but we are still doing our community work," said White Nile's social and political consultant Acuil Malith Bangol.

White Nile was helping build roads, health facilities and giving scholarships to the local community in Jonglei state.

Bangol said it was lobbying against the decision, "There are positive developments." Bangol declined to elaborate. [[Read more ...](#)]

Darfur scares European investors off Sudan's oil

(Reuters) Sudan has strong potential for oil exploration and expansion but big European players will be reluctant to invest for fear of pressure from groups advocating divestment because of violence in its Darfur region.

This has left the door open to Chinese firms, less sensitive to shareholder opinion, whose country is hungry for energy.

European caution is unlikely to change given the high profile of the rape and killing in Sudan's remote west, which international experts estimate has claimed 200,000 lives. [[Read more ...](#)].

GoSS

Salva Kiir urges religious coexistence in Southern Sudan

(*SudanTribune.com*) The First Vice President and President of Southern Sudan Government has urged to fight religious discrimination in southern Sudan; he reminded that during the SPLM/A struggle Christians and Muslim coexisted without any consideration to the religious factor and that Christians and Muslims were fighting side by side and were rejoicing in their religious ceremonies together.

He urged southern politicians not to divide their people along religious line. Otherwise, during the war SPLM/A captured and held thousands prisoners of war from Sudan Armed Forces mostly Muslims and they were given full religious right including fasting during Ramadan period with fasting requirement provided by the SPLM/A leadership.

He was speaking at the inaugural Prayer Breakfast for the southern Sudan legislative assembly held today at the assembly building ... the first of its kind. [[Read more ...](#)].

Souther Sudan Machar receives physical planning and land act of EES

(*SudanTribune.com*) The Vice-President of the GoSS, Riek Machar, received yesterday a draft physical planning and land use Act of 2007 for Eastern Equatoria State from the President of the High Court of the state.

The Vice-President thanked Justice Legge for his concern and dedication in ensuring that states of southern Sudan operates within the laws and assured the justice that after reading through by specialized committee, the Act could be replicated in the ten states of southern Sudan.

The President of the High Court of Eastern Equatoria State Torit Justice Geri Raimondo Legge today presented to the president of GoSS a proposed Physical Planning and Land use Act, 2007 as a simply for the rest of the southern Sudan states.

Justice Legge says this Act of 2007 shall be cited as "physical planning and land use Act, 2007 of Eastern Equatoria State and shall come into effect after the date of its endorsement and signing by state Governor. [[Read more ...](#)].

S. Sudan minister hinders graft probe - legislators

(Reuters - Juba) Parliament in Southern Sudan has ordered an investigation into a government minister it says has delayed the prosecution of senior officials accused of corruption in the semi-autonomous oil-rich region.

Parliament summoned Southern Sudan's Interior Minister Paul Mayom this week to explain why a probe into allegations that finance ministry officials paid vastly inflated prices for government and police vehicles was progressing so slowly.

The case is a high-profile test of the "zero tolerance" policy on corruption declared by Southern Sudan President Salva Kiir, who took office after a January 2005 north-south peace deal ended more than two decades of civil war.

Member of parliament Peter Bandi told Reuters Mayom had dismissed the chief investigator in the case for reasons that were unclear, and that Mayom's answers to parliament on Wednesday had been unsatisfactory.

"He is supposed to be administering justice. If you become an obstruction to the execution of justice, our security is not in safe hands," said Bandi. []

Mayom denied the allegations late on Friday, telling Reuters he had recommended the chief investigator be removed after discovering he was under suspicion for illegally taking extra cash while working for a governmental institution in north Sudan.

"(We) have not issued an order for dismissal, not at this end," said Mayom.

Mayom also said the planned transfer of the chief prosecutor was a decision made and then withdrawn by the legal affairs ministry, not by his office. [[Read more ...](#)].

Southern Sudan awards gold, uranium mining contracts

(Reuters - Juba) Southern Sudan has awarded two companies exploration licenses for gold and uranium in areas thought to be rich in minerals, an official from the semi-autonomous region said.

British/South African New Kush Exploration and Mining Company and the UK-listed Brinkley Mining Plc <BRM.L> paid \$5,000 for one-year exploration licenses in the area bordering Kenya.

The companies have informal verbal agreements with the GoSS because legislation governing formal written agreements has not been passed yet, said the mining ministry's director general for minerals and geological surveys, David Loro Gubek. North Sudanese legislation, which would usually be used in lieu of new southern laws, is also under review said Gubek.

Almost every southern Sudanese ministry has produced draft laws, causing jams in the law making process, he added.

The informal agreements with the two companies had been mandated by the cabinet, and Gubek said the government would likely award concessions to those who had done the exploration. [[Read more ...](#)].

Human rights chief lambasts party, defects to SPLM

(The Citizen) Southern Sudan's human rights chief yesterday lambasted her political party calling it fake and archaic. She then immediately walked into the embrace of the SPLM.

Joyce Kwaje Eluzai, the Chairperson of the Southern Sudan Human Rights Commission, said the Union of African Parties was preaching what she termed "unscriptural gospel" to the people of Southern Sudan and was a fake messiah.

Kwaje lost her parliamentary seat a month ago when the USAP recalled her, accusing the human rights chief of having clandestinely crossed over to the SPLM.

Darfur

AU says Darfur ex-rebels threaten AU force over pay

(Reuters) The African Union on Friday accused a former Darfur rebel group of intimidating its personnel in protest over pay cuts.

The organization said some 20 soldiers of the Sudan Liberation Army/Movement (SLA/M) demonstrated on Wednesday in front of the AU base in el-Fasher, Darfur's main town.

The AU has cut the monthly allowances due to its declining resources. It said it took the decision after discussions with all parties, including donors.

Darfur rebel groups have fragmented into many splinter factions and the African Union statement did not say which faction of the SLA the soldiers belonged to.

However, an AU source in el-Fasher told Reuters the heavily armed men were members of Minnawi's faction.

"They did not enter inside, but they chased everyone in the area away," the source said.

SLA Military Spokesman Mohammed Hamid Darben confirmed the report but said the protest was not a show of force.

The group on Wednesday gave the African Union three days to reinstate old salaries. It also said it was suspending participation of its representatives within AU the missions. It did not specify the consequences if the AU did not comply.

The talks in Arusha:

(Reuters; AFP; the local press – Arusha, Khartoum) Field commanders from Darfur rebel factions flew in for a second day of unity talks on Saturday, boosting hopes they will agree a bargaining position ahead of peace negotiations with the Sudanese government.

Around a dozen rebel groups are attending the African Union and United Nations-sponsored meeting in the Tanzanian resort of Arusha, which is due to continue until Sunday. The AU and U.N. also hope to set a date and venue for peace talks with Khartoum.

Key field commanders including Jar el-Neby and Suleiman Marajan joined members of the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) and factions of the Sudan Liberation Army/Movement at the talks on Saturday. Analysts say their presence is needed to bring together the political and military sides of each faction.

In Arusha, U.N. Darfur envoy Jan Eliasson and his African Union counterpart Salim Ahmed Salim were holding talks with each rebel faction ahead of a planned meeting on Sunday of all parties.

Sudan offered the rebels a concession on Wednesday, saying it might let elderly SLA aid coordinator Suleiman Jamous leave hospital without threat of arrest once the talks were underway.

But by Saturday it was still not clear if he would reach the meeting, which diplomats said should finish on time on Sunday.

Speaking to AFP by telephone from Paris, Abdel Wahid Mohammed Nur, whose Sudan Liberation Army/Movement (SLA/M) spearheaded the 2003 uprising, said the security situation in Darfur was not ripe for talks and challenged the legitimacy of the many factions taking part in the Arusha talks.

"The government of Sudan has practiced a 'divide and conquer' approach. Spending the international community's money to host these factions will not bring peace to the people of Darfur," he said.

"Recognizing new factions will be endless, the rebels will split more and more, we will only see more movements," Nur added.

*"The rebels don't need common ground. We did not sign Abuja, this is our common ground,"
AbdulWahid Mohamed Nur*

"Peace negotiations need a conducive environment but the government of Sudan is still killing people, thousands are still being displaced," Nur said. "The rebels don't need common ground, we did not sign Abuja, this is our common ground," he said.

The rebel leader charged that Abuja was the "mediators' peace deal", an agreement signed under intense pressure from the international community that eventually led to a deterioration of the situation in Darfur. "Going ahead with these talks now is repeating the mistakes of Abuja ...

Peace is obtaining the trust of the people, what they will achieve in Arusha will be nothing more than a piece of paper."

"We regret that AbdulWahid Nur is not here. We hope that with this decision, he is not excluding himself from the final negotiations we are planning," Special Envoy Jan Eliasson

UN and AU mediators in Arusha said the door remained open for Nur to join the talks, which follow fast on the heels of the landmark UN Security Council decision Tuesday to deploy some 26,000 peacekeepers in Darfur.

"We regret that Abdel Wahid Nur is not here. We hope that with this decision, he is not excluding himself from the final negotiations we are planning," top UN envoy Jan Eliasson said Friday.

The Sudanese Foreign Affairs Ministry, yesterday summoned the French Ambassador to Sudan and conveyed to him Sudan's resentment of Paris' failure to pressure SLM/A leader, AbdulWahid Al Nur into attending the Arusha meetings aimed at unifying positions of the Darfur Peace Agreement opponents.

A statement issued by the Ministry said the French Foreign Minister happened to assure his Sudanese counterpart that France would put pressure on Al Nur to attend the said meetings.

According to the statement, the French position in this regard is not consistent with the concern of Paris about the sufferings of Darfurians as shown by the conference on Darfur convened in Paris last June by the International Contact Group and the meeting of the French President with the British Prime Minister.

The Sudanese Foreign Ministry told the French Ambassador that Sudan hopes Paris would translate its words into action that realizes peace in Darfur.

The Ministry added that Sudan has overlooked the unbalanced statement by the French leadership, holding the Sudanese government responsible for conditions in Darfur, while France failed to put pressure on one of the rebel leaders present in France to participate in the Arusha meetings.

The Ministry further stated that the French position put into question the genuineness of the French leadership statements in reaching peace in Darfur, calling on the ambassador to convey that to her government as soon as possible. [[Boost for Darfur talks in Arusha as rebel commanders arrive; Senior Darfur rebel leader blasts Arusha talks; Sudan Resentful of France Position in Nur Boycott of Arusha Meetings](#)]

The AU envoy to Darfur has told the delegates of the non-signatory movements that attending Arusha meeting does not mean they will all participate in the final peace talks with Khartoum.

"The decision on who is invited to the final talks will be guided by the outcome of this and other consultations on the ground in Darfur and the Sudan", Special Envoy Salim Ahmed Salim.

Salim Ahmed Salim stated during his speech at the opening session of Arusha consultations meeting that their participation "do not guarantee anyone a seat on the table at the final negotiations. "The decision on who is invited to the final talks will be guided by the outcome of this and other consultations on the ground in Darfur and the Sudan", he said.

The mediator emphasized that the objective of this meeting is to help rebel groups to meet and exchange view on how they can find "the internal cohesion and platform to negotiate a new dispensation in Darfur, one that will bring concrete evidence of the dividends of peace to your people."

Salim deplored the absence of SLM leader Abdelwahid al-Nur. "That is his choice", he said, adding that he hoped "that in the interest of the people he has been fighting for, he will soon join his brothers and sisters from Darfur, so that we can achieve an early political settlement to the Darfur conflict."

UN envoy Jan Eliasson stressed that in organizing the Arusha meeting, they gave highest priority to consultations amongst the representatives of the movements as cohesion and coordination of their positions will be key to the success of the political process.

Eliasson enumerated five objectives for Arusha meeting: enhanced dialogue and cooperation between the movements; full acceptance and commitment to the AU-UN Joint roadmap, in particular commitment to engage soon in negotiations; presentation of proposals on ways and means to ensure that the views of the IDP community and civil society are represented during the negotiations; ideas about the venue, format, and date of the upcoming negotiations; proposals of confidence-building measures, for instance an effective cessation of hostilities, containing and stopping banditry, protection of humanitarian personnel and assets as well as humanitarian access, and ideas that could improve the situation between the movements and the Government.

The Arusha meeting, which gathers a good number of representatives of non-signatory movements for the first time since the signing of Abuja peace deal in May 2006, is scheduled to continue until 5 August.

The Arusha meeting will be immediately followed by extensive shuttle diplomacy to be undertaken by the Special Envoys and the AU-UN Joint Mediation Support Team, which includes in depth discussions in Khartoum and Darfur with the DPA signatories on preparations for the upcoming negotiations, to which invitations are to be issued before the end of August.

SLM leader assesses Darfur meeting in Arusha

(*SudanTribune.com*) Abdelwahid al-Nur, who requests Darfur civilians' protection and Khartoum's observance of the ceasefire before the talks with the Sudanese government, told Sudan Tribune, that there are no divergences between the rebels on the agenda of talks with Khartoum and this meeting of Arusha is just held to satisfy Sudan's claims about rebels' fragmentation.

"We have submitted a supplementary document to Abuja mediators and we stated clearly why we reject Abuja agreement we also addressed a letter to the UN Secretary General in this regard and our demands are the same. Nothing changed."

Al-Nur said the mediators to some extent are advertising thesis disseminated by Khartoum about the existence of so called "19 rebel groups in Darfur". "The mediators speak about rebels unity, but in fact they encourage rebels' divisions because they invite any one with a gun, a vehicle and a satellite telephone to attend the talks."

According to Nur, to hold peace talks you do need viable actors who can discuss and negotiate together and this requires mutual concessions. Also these viable parties are those who are able to implement an agreement on the ground." He added that they invited "artificial entities" and going to repeat the "same error of Abuja when they thought realizing peace with Minni Minawi."

The rebel leader exclaimed "What is wrong when we require that Khartoum stops daily killing and continued displaced of innocent civilians in Darfur." Explaining "It is not me who publish report on attacks and robbery against civilians it's not me who raise alarm about the growing numbers of IDPs in the camps, it is the UN and the AU forces on the ground."

"We do respect the ceasefire, because we are serious in our commitment for peace but look to Khartoum and its militia, they violate it every day furthermore; instead of requesting the respect of the ceasefire they sponsored, the mediators advertise for Khartoum claims and want to present us as bad boys."

Regarding the methods adopted by the AU-UN mediators, al-Nur deplored pressures on field commanders to attend Arusha meeting. He said the mediation team pressurized field commanders telling them they would be subjected to sanctions.

Also, he said mediators are not authorized to determine venue and date for talks of the rebels' meeting without prior consultations. I'm ashamed for those who are in Arusha because they are just invited in the last minute and transported to sign a document the mediators have already prepared."

"Remember when they said we have three days to ink the agreement, can you find such measure in another peace talks."

However, the rebel leader acknowledged deep respect to the UN envoy for Darfur Jan Eliasson who met him more than once.

Al Nur went on to say that he knows very well that some people work to create fictitious Darfur figure to replace him. Adding, he never pretends to such position. "My main concern is to defend Darfur people interests."

The rebel leader invited the mediators to accomplish their noble mission with impartiality and love of justice. Because if they failed no body will attribute this failure to their lack of capacities or qualifications; other objective causes are behind that, he said.

Darfur rebel figure urges Sudan to grant his participation in Arusha meeting

(*SudanTribune.com*) Suleiman Jamous, the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) humanitarian coordinator who is confined to a United Nations hospital in Kordofan has addressed a personal letter to the Sudanese president Omer al-Bashir requesting him "to grant me leave to attend the upcoming peace meeting in Arusha, Tanzania, in accordance with the delegates' list submitted to the organizers."

"My greatest desire is to help bring peace to Darfur, to enable its people to return to their villages and live together as they did before - in peace and harmony." Jamous wrote in his letter.

Jamous, who is well respected by all the SLM/A factions, was presented by one of the SLM leaders, Abdalla Yahya Ahmed, to the AU-UN envoys as member of his delegation. Normally, the Sudanese has to authorize him to leave the hospital of Kadugli in South Kordofan where he is confined since June 2006.

Jamous underscored in his letter to the Sudanese president the importance of putting an end to the ongoing war in Darfur.

Referring to the tribal clashes between two Arab tribes Rezeigat Abala and the Terjem in South Darfur, he said "My great fear is that the fighting that we have seen in South Darfur over the last few days - fighting that is beyond the control of any authorities - will spread across the region and cause irreparable damage to our beloved country."

While Foreign Minister Lam Akol "has promised to look into the matter," ministry spokesman Ali Sadiq told the Associated Press on Thursday. Sudan considers Jamous' case "an internal matter" and is not willing to discuss it further, he said.

U.N. Mission in Sudan says he is free to leave the hospital at any time, but it acknowledges that Jamous is danger of arrest or reprisals by the government of he does.

"The minute he leaves, we are no longer responsible for his safety," said George Somerwill, a spokesman for the U.N. mission in Sudan.

The U.N. has appealed for authorities to grant him safe passage so he can be treated abroad and eventually take part in new peace talks between rebels and the government, Somerwill said.

The former head of UNMIS, Jan Pronk transported Jamous from Darfur to the UN hospital in Kadugli on June 22, 2006 for treatment but also to protect him from Minni Minawi who had detained and tortured him.

International personalities and rights activists, in a petition sent to Sudanese al-Bashir, have urged his release from the virtual prison where he is confined. [[Read the full text of his letter](#)]